

SYNOPSIS

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✓ "E A S Y M O N E Y" ✓

Andy Simpson, constable, blacksmith and all-round mechanic of Millbrook, a thrifty little Southern town, is looked upon by the townsfolk as a slow, plodding individual with no more ambition than to perform his daily duties. But the townsfolk were dead wrong in their conception of Andy for Margie Watkins, the bank president's daughter, had long ago planted the seed of ambition in his soul. Margie was Andy's sweetheart, and it was she, who saw the sterling qualities, which others had overlooked, in this hard working youth. Andy, on the other hand, became more thrifty and dreamt only of the little cottage which he and Margie had planned to some day build on a little piece of property he owned on the outskirts of the town. Every Sunday found the pair picnicing on this little piece of property and adding to their already overlaid dream of the future. Preparing to return to town at the conclusion of one of these Sunday outings, Andy's buggy meets with a mishap, a dislodged wheel almost upsetting the vehicle and dumping them into the road. Stranded there, miles from town, Margie and Andy bemoan their fate when an expensive car, bearing J. Overton Tighe, enroute from Washington to Millbrook, hovers into view from around a turn in the road. Tighe, in partnership with James Bradford, a notorious promoter of 'wild-cat' investments, has, in the past few months, carried on a thriving business in the sale of worthless soap stocks, but the sale of soap stocks proved merely a blind for their more nefarious traffic. Tighe, at this very moment, was on his way to Millbrook to establish a headquarters in the town from which to further carry on his 'get-rich-quick' method of accumulating easy money. Observing Andy's predicament he stops his car. Margie, catching sight of the dapper stranger, is deeply impressed with his worldly appearance and is quick to accept his kind invitation to take her back to town in his machine. Andy, greatly distressed, tries to follow on his mule but the animal refuses to budge.

In the days which follow, Andy discovers, to his great dismay, that Tighe has supplanted him in Margie's affections. The girl is completely carried away by the smooth-voiced Tighe, who, using her as an innocent tool, succeeds in winning his way into the good graces of both Mr. and Mrs. Watkins who look upon him as a financial wizard. Watkins is so greatly impressed by the promoter that he sees in Tighe's proposition the coming of a new and prosperous era to Millbrook. The townsfolk, greatly enthused and curious, eagerly watch Tighe's progress. The wily promoter, having leased an old deserted building, sets his scheme in motion with a great hurrah. The townsfolk flock to him, and deeply impressed by his smooth talk, willingly invest their money in his soap stock.

Andy, suspicious of Tighe and his soap business, finds himself snubbed by Margie, and upon offering his advice to 'look before they leap', is laughed at by the townsfolk who declare him short-sighted to overlook such a golden opportunity for easy money as is offered by Tighe. Mrs. Watkins, influenced by the shrewd promoter, prevails upon her husband to use some of the bank's funds to invest in the town's new enterprise.

Andy, determined to investigate Tighe's methods, makes the startling discovery that a far more crooked business than the sale of worthless soap stock is being carried on. Lacking the necessary evidence to place Tighe under arrest he decides to await his opportunity.

Margie, in the meantime, having found a letter from Bardford to Tighe, which leads her to believe that their transactions are of a dishonest nature, seeks out Andy and shows him the letter. The contents of the letter gives Andy the necessary evidence with which to place Tighe under arrest. Informing Margie that Tighe is a crook of the first water, he gains the knowledge that her father is deeply involved, he having invested some of the bank's funds and that Tighe's arrest would mean her father's ruin.

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Margie, apparently disregarding Andy's advice regarding Tighe, continues to carry on her affair with the promoter, who, pretending to have fallen in love with her, asks her to marry him. This takes place during a Sunday outing to Andy's property, and to cap the climax, just before preparing to return to town, Tighe discovers oil on the land. Keeping his discovery a secret, even from Margie, he sends a sample of it to Bradford. The latter, having the sample analyzed, finds that it contains 60% pure crude oil. Dispatching a certified check, for a large amount, to Tighe he instructs him to buy the land.

Tighe, arranging a meeting with Andy, pretends that he desires to purchase his land for a factory site. Andy, ^{apparently} unaware of the discovery of oil on his land, sells it for less than one-hundredth part of its real value, and appears almost panic stricken when told the true state of affairs.

The big, exciting raid on Tighe's place by Andy, the expose of the real business carried on there, the exciting chase, Andy's sensational leap from a tree to Tighe's speeding car, the latter's arrest, Margie's miraculous escape from certain death and how Andy, the slow, plodding town constable, with Margie's aid, turned the tables on the shrewd promoter and himself got the easy money, tend to make this one of the most exciting finishes ever filmed in a story shock full of humor, pathos and heart interest.

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